



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation March 2017

Employment Growth Continues, Unemployment Rate Remains Steady

Nearly everyone who entered the labor force in March found work, setting a new employment record for the state.

The number of individuals working increased by 9,539 in March to a historic high of 2,229,599 people. South Carolina's labor force increased 9,763 to 2,333,186 people, while the number of people unemployed edged up by 224 over February, increasing to 103,587. This kept the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March steady at 4.4 percent for the third consecutive month.

During the past year, the labor force has grown by 36,734, and employment gains totaled 55,370. The level of unemployment since March 2016 has decreased by 18,636 people.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate fell from 4.7 percent in February to 4.5 percent.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 1,400 from February to March to reach a record high of 2,077,700.

- Increases were recorded in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,200); Education and Health Services (+1,400); Manufacturing (+1,200); Government (+900); and Leisure and Hospitality (+800).
- Five industries reported decreases: Professional and Business Services (-1,700); Other Services (-1,500); Financial Activities (-1,100); Construction (-700); and Information (-100).

Compared to March 2016, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 35,800.

- Gains were seen in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,000); Manufacturing (+8,500); Professional and Business Services (+6,400); Education and Health Services (+6,300); Construction (+2,800); Government (+2,400); and Financial Activities (+300).
- Other Services (-1,200); Leisure and Hospitality (-500); and Information (-400) reported losses in the last year.

Nonfarm Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 19,700 from February to March to a total of 2,072,000. Gains were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+10,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,300); Manufacturing (+2,100); Government (+1,800); Education and Health Services (+1,300); Professional and Business Services (+900); Construction (+200); and Financial Activities (+100). Mining and Logging remained the same and Other Services (-900) and Information (-200) had decreases.

Since March 2016, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs increased 39,300 across the state. Industries with annual gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,600); Manufacturing (+8,400); Education and Health Services (+7,400); Professional and Business Services (+6,300); Construction (+3,200); and Government (+2,700). Additional gains were recorded in Financial Activities (+900); Mining and Logging (+200); and Leisure and Hospitality (+100). Downturns occurred in Other Services (-1,100) and Information (-400).

¹**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

²**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
March 2017**

Industry	March 2017	February 2017	March 2016	February 2017 to March 2017		March 2016 to March 2017	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,077,700	2,076,300	2,041,900	1,400	0.07%	35,800	1.75%
Construction	95,400	96,100	92,600	-700	-0.73%	2,800	3.02%
Manufacturing	245,200	244,000	236,700	1,200	0.49%	8,500	3.59%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	403,200	401,000	392,200	2,200	0.55%	11,000	2.80%
Information	26,700	26,800	27,100	-100	-0.37%	-400	-1.48%
Financial Activities	100,300	101,400	100,000	-1,100	-1.10%	300	0.30%
Professional and Business Services	272,900	274,600	266,500	-1,700	-0.62%	6,400	2.40%
Education and Health Services	246,100	244,700	239,800	1,400	0.57%	6,300	2.63%
Leisure and Hospitality	245,600	244,800	246,100	800	0.33%	-500	-0.20%
Other Services	72,900	74,400	74,100	-1,500	-2.06%	-1,200	-1.62%
Government	365,100	364,200	362,700	900	0.25%	2,400	0.66%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**Statewide
March 2017**

Industry	March 2017	February 2017	March 2016	February 2017 to March 2017		March 2016 to March 2017	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm	2,072,000	2,052,300	2,032,700	19,700	0.96%	39,300	1.93%
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	0.00%	200	4.88%
Construction	95,500	95,300	92,300	200	0.21%	3,200	3.47%
Manufacturing	245,200	243,100	236,800	2,100	0.86%	8,400	3.55%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	399,200	394,900	387,600	4,300	1.09%	11,600	2.99%
Information	26,600	26,800	27,000	-200	-0.75%	-400	-1.48%
Financial Activities	99,900	99,800	99,000	100	0.10%	900	0.91%
Professional and Business Services	270,000	269,100	263,700	900	0.33%	6,300	2.39%
Education and Health Services	247,500	246,200	240,100	1,300	0.53%	7,400	3.08%
Leisure and Hospitality	241,200	231,100	241,100	10,100	4.37%	100	0.04%
Other Services	73,200	74,100	74,300	-900	-1.21%	-1,100	-1.48%
Government	369,400	367,600	366,700	1,800	0.49%	2,700	0.74%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

March 2017

Area	March 2017	February 2017	March 2016	February 2017 to March 2017		March 2016 to March 2017	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,077,700	2,076,300	2,041,900	1,400	0.07%	35,800	1.75%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	354,300	352,700	343,000	1,600	0.45%	11,300	3.29%
Columbia MSA	395,600	396,300	391,800	-700	-0.18%	3,800	0.97%
Florence MSA	88,700	88,700	86,600	0	0.00%	2,100	2.42%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	411,500	412,200	407,800	-700	-0.17%	3,700	0.91%
Myrtle Beach MSA	164,000	163,600	160,400	400	0.24%	3,600	2.24%
Spartanburg MSA	149,800	149,300	145,500	500	0.33%	4,300	2.96%
Sumter MSA	38,800	39,200	39,000	-400	-1.03%	-200	-0.51%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)

March 2017

Area	March 2017	February 2017	March 2016	February 2017 to March 2017		March 2016 to March 2017	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,072,000	2,052,300	2,032,700	19,700	0.96%	39,300	1.93%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	352,200	349,000	340,900	3,200	0.92%	11,300	3.31%
Columbia MSA	395,800	394,400	390,200	1,400	0.35%	5,600	1.44%
Florence MSA	89,100	88,300	86,900	800	0.91%	2,200	2.53%
Greenville MSA	410,500	408,200	406,400	2,300	0.56%	4,100	1.01%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	76,000	74,700	75,100	1,300	1.74%	900	1.20%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	158,800	153,200	156,300	5,600	3.66%	2,500	1.60%
Spartanburg MSA	150,100	149,000	145,200	1,100	0.74%	4,900	3.37%
Sumter MSA	39,000	39,100	39,100	-100	-0.26%	-100	-0.26%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		March 2017				February 2017				March 2016			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	12,812	11,883	929	7.3	12,795	11,708	1,087	8.5	12,675	11,593	1,082	8.5
Allendale County	↓	2,668	2,478	190	7.1	2,680	2,460	220	8.2	2,671	2,436	235	8.8
Bamberg County	↓	5,259	4,889	370	7.0	5,267	4,843	424	8.1	5,287	4,816	471	8.9
Orangeburg County	↓	35,572	33,204	2,368	6.7	35,687	32,920	2,767	7.8	36,035	33,083	2,952	8.2
Marlboro County	↓	9,305	8,715	590	6.3	9,295	8,619	676	7.3	9,440	8,647	793	8.4
Williamsburg County	↓	12,702	11,948	754	5.9	12,723	11,829	894	7.0	12,612	11,589	1,023	8.1
Chester County	↓	13,906	13,134	772	5.6	13,903	12,993	910	6.5	13,591	12,661	930	6.8
Lee County	↓	6,543	6,179	364	5.6	6,537	6,131	406	6.2	6,323	5,857	466	7.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,407	7,941	466	5.5	8,395	7,871	524	6.2	8,152	7,556	596	7.3
Fairfield County	↓	10,085	9,534	551	5.5	10,149	9,490	659	6.5	10,040	9,327	713	7.1
Clarendon County	↓	12,978	12,280	698	5.4	13,022	12,215	807	6.2	12,800	11,933	867	6.8
Dillon County	↓	12,932	12,252	680	5.3	12,935	12,145	790	6.1	12,615	11,722	893	7.1
Georgetown County	↓	25,727	24,357	1,370	5.3	25,677	24,029	1,648	6.4	24,856	23,056	1,800	7.2
Calhoun County	↓	6,937	6,598	339	4.9	6,967	6,578	389	5.6	6,853	6,454	399	5.8
Horry County	↓	138,748	131,943	6,805	4.9	135,779	127,364	8,415	6.2	137,342	128,933	8,409	6.1
Sumter County	↓	44,471	42,292	2,179	4.9	44,667	42,223	2,444	5.5	44,609	41,911	2,698	6.0
Darlington County	↓	30,497	29,018	1,479	4.8	30,386	28,675	1,711	5.6	29,998	28,080	1,918	6.4
Union County	↓	11,873	11,299	574	4.8	11,854	11,198	656	5.5	11,703	10,912	791	6.8
Cherokee County	↓	23,940	22,836	1,104	4.6	23,830	22,574	1,256	5.3	23,804	22,347	1,457	6.1
McCormick County	↓	3,453	3,296	157	4.5	3,464	3,272	192	5.5	3,441	3,230	211	6.1
Edgefield County	↓	10,764	10,289	475	4.4	10,811	10,274	537	5.0	10,619	10,027	592	5.6
Lancaster County	↓	38,324	36,643	1,681	4.4	38,157	36,275	1,882	4.9	37,410	35,357	2,053	5.5
Abbeville County	↓	10,463	10,016	447	4.3	10,411	9,923	488	4.7	10,464	9,864	600	5.7
Colleton County	↓	17,285	16,538	747	4.3	17,284	16,418	866	5.0	16,508	15,531	977	5.9
Florence County	↓	66,866	64,000	2,866	4.3	66,479	63,261	3,218	4.8	65,704	62,066	3,638	5.5
Greenwood County	↓	31,775	30,419	1,356	4.3	31,631	30,103	1,528	4.8	31,610	29,909	1,701	5.4
Hampton County	↓	8,210	7,855	355	4.3	8,189	7,778	411	5.0	8,165	7,651	514	6.3
Kershaw County	↓	29,432	28,168	1,264	4.3	29,450	28,034	1,416	4.8	29,105	27,563	1,542	5.3
Chesterfield County	↓	22,241	21,333	908	4.1	22,165	21,154	1,011	4.6	21,647	20,554	1,093	5.0
Laurens County	↓	30,459	29,205	1,254	4.1	30,483	29,054	1,429	4.7	30,483	28,747	1,736	5.7
Beaufort County	↓	72,396	69,535	2,861	4.0	71,775	68,540	3,235	4.5	71,855	68,361	3,494	4.9
Oconee County	↓	34,929	33,519	1,410	4.0	34,843	33,231	1,612	4.6	34,435	32,599	1,836	5.3
Pickens County	↓	56,951	54,657	2,294	4.0	56,843	54,336	2,507	4.4	56,751	53,843	2,908	5.1
Aiken County	↓	75,189	72,249	2,940	3.9	75,279	71,926	3,353	4.5	74,278	70,520	3,758	5.1
Richland County	↓	203,078	195,106	7,972	3.9	202,768	193,804	8,964	4.4	200,931	191,136	9,795	4.9
Anderson County	↓	89,980	86,582	3,398	3.8	89,807	86,034	3,773	4.2	89,438	85,252	4,186	4.7
Saluda County	↓	8,813	8,477	336	3.8	8,866	8,487	379	4.3	8,675	8,243	432	5.0
Spartanburg County	↓	145,681	140,151	5,530	3.8	145,052	138,811	6,241	4.3	142,180	135,309	6,871	4.8
York County	↓	132,732	127,765	4,967	3.7	132,048	126,451	5,597	4.2	129,438	123,362	6,076	4.7
Berkeley County	↓	97,934	94,366	3,568	3.6	97,316	93,297	4,019	4.1	95,362	90,874	4,488	4.7
Dorchester County	↓	76,096	73,345	2,751	3.6	75,605	72,542	3,063	4.1	74,132	70,636	3,496	4.7
Jasper County	↓	11,854	11,426	428	3.6	11,828	11,340	488	4.1	11,785	11,253	532	4.5
Newberry County	↓	19,169	18,473	696	3.6	19,117	18,339	778	4.1	19,023	18,056	967	5.1
Greenville County	↓	247,852	239,095	8,757	3.5	247,372	237,527	9,845	4.0	246,084	235,458	10,626	4.3
Lexington County	↓	148,501	143,461	5,040	3.4	148,422	142,735	5,687	3.8	146,714	140,485	6,229	4.2
Charleston County	↓	207,618	200,774	6,844	3.3	206,622	198,915	7,707	3.7	201,954	193,551	8,403	4.2
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	381,648	368,485	13,163	3.4	379,543	364,754	14,789	3.9	371,448	355,061	16,387	4.4
Columbia MSA	↓	406,846	391,344	15,502	3.8	406,622	389,128	17,494	4.3	402,318	383,208	19,110	4.7
Florence MSA	↓	97,363	93,018	4,345	4.5	96,865	91,936	4,929	5.1	95,702	90,146	5,556	5.8
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	425,242	409,539	15,703	3.7	424,505	406,951	17,554	4.1	422,756	403,300	19,456	4.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	—	2,333,186	2,229,599	103,587	4.4	2,323,423	2,220,060	103,363	4.4	2,295,079	2,170,987	124,092	5.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.
Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
— Unemployment Rate =